

many years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Aaron Bedell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 768, "Expressing support for the designation of the month of October as National Work and Family Month" I would like to thank my colleague, Rep. MCCARTHY, for introducing this act of solidarity, as well as the co-sponsors.

It is well established that employees who are able to effectively balance family and work responsibilities feel healthier and more successful in their relationships with their spouses, children, and friends. The quality of workers' jobs and the supportiveness of their workplaces are key predictors of job productivity, job satisfaction, commitment to employers, and retention; employees who are able to effectively balance family and work responsibilities are less likely to report making mistakes or feeling resentment toward employers and coworkers. These workers are also engaged and less likely to look for a new job in the next year, and also enjoy better overall health, better mental health, and lower levels of stress.

It is not only at the office that this balance makes a difference—job flexibility often allows parents to be more involved in their children's lives, and parental involvement is associated with higher child achievement in language and mathematics, improved behavior, greater academic persistence, and lower dropout rates. Conversely, a lack of job flexibility for parents negatively affects child health by preventing children from making needed doctors' appointments and receiving adequate early care, which makes illnesses more severe and prolonged.

American workers know this firsthand. That's why research by the Radcliffe Public Policy Center in 2000 found that men in their 20s and 30s and women in their 20s, 30s, and 40s identified as the most important job characteristic a work schedule that allows them to spend time with their families. According to research by the Sloan Center for Aging and Work, a majority of workers age 53 and older attribute their success as an employee, by a great or moderate extent, to job flexibility, and also report that, to a great extent, job flexibility contributes to an overall higher quality of life.

In a 2009 survey entitled "Great Expectations! What Students Want in an Employer and How Federal Agencies Can Deliver It", attaining a healthy work-life balance was an important career goal of 66 percent of respondents, and a 2008 study entitled "A Golden Opportunity", which found that workers between the ages of 50 and 65 are a strong source of

experienced talent for the Federal workforce and that nearly 50 percent of these potential workers find flexible work schedules "extremely appealing". According to the 2006 American Community Survey, 47 percent of wage and salaried workers are parents with children under the age of 18 who live with them at least half-time.

Since 85 percent of United States wage and salaried workers have immediate, day-to-day family responsibilities outside of their jobs, efforts to help workers achieve this balance is of no small importance to the prosperity of our nation. As an example, from 2001 to early 2008, 1,700,000 active duty troops have served in Iraq and 600,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve (133,000 on more than one tour) have been called up to serve, creating a need for policies and programs to help military families adjust to the realities that come with having a family member in the military.

This resolution supports the designation of "National Work and Family Month"; recognizes the importance of balancing work and family to job productivity and healthy families; recognizes that an important job characteristic is a work schedule that allows employees to spend time with families; supports the goals and ideals of "National Work and Family Month", and urges public officials, employers, employees, and the general public to work together to achieve more balance between work and family; and requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe "National Work and Family Month" with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church as they mark their 50th anniversary as a congregation during the month of October. I am looking forward to celebrating with my friends at the church in the coming weeks.

Incorporated on April 8, 1959, and named in September of the same year, the Church has long served as a pillar of the Las Vegas community. As the first Greek Orthodox Church in Southern Nevada, St. John's welcomed new Americans of Greek descent to Las Vegas and helped them feel at home in the community. St. John's has also educated thousands of children in the rituals and faith of the Greek Orthodox Church, ensuring the strength and vitality of the doctrine.

Since 1959, the congregation and its leaders have remained true to its core Greek Orthodox principles of faith and family. This large and dynamic community has been a guiding light in Southern Nevada. The Church offers both religious and Greek language classes for children and young adults, as well as a bookstore for all ages. The Church has been home to many happy occasions, including christenings, religious holidays, birthdays, and weddings. Our community has also come together

in times of mourning to offer consolation and comfort to the grieving. St. John's has been a valuable part of my life since I moved to Las Vegas more than 30 years ago as I was welcomed with authentic Greek hospitality.

In the past 50 years, the Church has expanded from a small group of patrons to a large community meeting in a beautiful Church located in the heart of District 3, whose design was inspired by St. Euphemia of the Hippodrome in Constantinople. Today, St. John's has a vibrant membership and is host to a community center and educational facilities.

Since 2003, the Hellenic Historical Society has been preserving and chronicling the history of the Greek community of Las Vegas in order to pass on this important record to future generations. Through exhibits and presentations, the Historical Society has been educating and informing the Greek community of its deep roots in the Las Vegas Valley. Their newest educational project is tracing the ancestral roots of the Greek community and their journey to Southern Nevada.

The Church is also active in social justice projects that benefit children, seniors, the sick, and the poor. Through a variety of social action projects, congregation members are constantly contributing and working not only to improve Southern Nevada, but also the worldwide community.

The Church hosts regular events celebrating Greek heritage such as folk dancing, led by award winning dancing teams, and Easter egg hunts. There is also an annual Greek Food festival which is famous throughout the Las Vegas Valley for its wonderful music, camaraderie, and the best Greek food outside of Athens.

I congratulate St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church for its first 50 years of successes and extend my best wishes for the next 50 years.

COMMEMORATING THE 120TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE FENIMORE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the Fenimore Street United Methodist Church located in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

Fenimore Street Methodist Church was incorporated on August 20th 1889 and admitted into the New York East Conference in April 1890 with Rev. James L. Hall as its first pastor.

Over the years, Fenimore has served the people of Brooklyn as not only a house of worship, but as a pillar of the community. As the neighborhood changed, so did church patronage which culminated in 1968 with Rev. William J. Smart becoming Fenimore's first black minister. In the tradition of firsts, in 2002, Rev. Dr. Maxine Nixon was named Fenimore's first female minister.

Fenimore Street Methodist Church has undergone many renovations and weathered many challenges under the steadfast leadership of its pastors. Providing such services as the summer camp for neighborhood children

and remaining a pillar of support for those who have fallen on hard times are just some of the ways in which Fenimore has served Brooklyn over the years.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge the very distinguished pastors that have poured their heart and soul into Fenimore Street United Methodist Church. They include: Revs. James L. Hall; C.S. Williams; J.S. Bell; C.A. Knesai; H.E. Kiley; G.W. Osman; L.H. Caswell; W.G. Griffin; G.L. Thompson; C.C. Coile; E.J. Marvin; H.C. Whitney; Arthur C. Brown; James Link; John S. Smith; Dr. W.C. Sainsbury; Ward J. Kemenway; James Veatch; Maron Cox; William Smartt; Randolph Fisher; Alfred Harper; Lester Baker; Dr. Neville Buchanan; Dr. Ivan J. Roberts and Dr. Maxine Nixon.

Again I'd like to congratulate and thank Fenimore Street United Methodist on 120 years of service to Brooklyn.

RECOGNITION OF MT. DIABLO PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center, an invaluable institution in the San Francisco Bay Area that will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary on October 19, 2009.

Founded in 1969 by the late Andy Baltzo, the Mount Diablo Peace and Justice Center was initially known to most residents of Contra Costa County as simply, "The Peace Center." Its goal was to provide residents of the East Bay with a voice against the escalating war in Vietnam as well as a focal point for issues of social justice.

After our troops returned from Southeast Asia, members of the Peace Center recognized that the quest for peace and justice is never ending. The Center turned its attention to issues of nuclear arms reduction, military disarmament, and avoidance of U.S. entanglement in the conflicts in Central America.

Instrumental in the early development of the Peace Center was the work of a core group of committed peace activists including Arne Westerback, Louise Clark, and Sheila Pederesen.

Over the years, the Center expanded its focus to include a wide range of programs that addressed raising peaceful children and race awareness. The larger community continued to have a voice through the Peace Center and has benefited from organized non-violent protests against military conflicts, including most recently the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. These protests take the form of peace marches, demonstrations, and a unique war memorial known as The Crosses of Lafayette. Much national and even international attention was focused on the local community when multi-denominational memorials were erected on a highly visible hillside one for each American military service member who has died in the current conflicts. It's a silent but powerful reminder to all who pass by of the human toll of war.

The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center also provides inspirational classes in non-violence that continue to benefit the community as a whole.

With its access to nationally known speakers, educational forums, and film series, the Center is able to promote peace and justice through a variety of mediums. Students, parents and teachers have access to a wide range of programs that include the Art and Writing Challenge and Youth in the Military, a counseling service for young people on national service alternatives to the military. Through local food collection and distribution, The Center also addresses the needs of the poor living in our local community.

As our world becomes seemingly smaller, the Peace Center is once again broadening its program. Currently, plans are underway for an International Peace Youth Camp which will bring outstanding teen leaders from around the world to the Center. Once at camp, they will have the opportunity to get to know each other and learn new methods of co-existence through cultural exchange.

Today, dedicated Peace Center leaders such as Barbara and Ed Tonningsen and Bob Hanson continue to bring the lessons of non-violence to our community and beyond.

I applaud the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center for its strong, principled, and ongoing voice on the issues of peace and justice and I am proud to bring this organization to the attention of my colleagues. Congratulations to past and present members who have kept the Center viable and dynamic throughout the decades. As you celebrate 40 Years of Peacemaking, I wish you continued success.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the momentous 40th anniversary of the Texas A&M International University.

Texas A&M International University first began as a "center" in August 1970 under Texas A&I University in Kingsville in order to fill a demand in teacher education and business disciplines. Seven years later, the name changed to Laredo State University and in 1993, the institution became Texas A&M International University. In the fall of 1995, the Texas Legislature authorized the expansion of a four-year undergraduate program status with an eventual authorization for doctoral programs. Today, the university has been at the forefront of providing higher education and cultural opportunities to students of Laredo and surrounding south Texas region.

Texas A&M International University consists of the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and a NCAA Division II Athletics program. Undoubtedly, this university serves as a unique asset to the fundamental groundwork for progressive and influential Hispanic serving institutions. TAMIU has 92 percent of students identifying themselves as minority, including, Hispanic, African-American, Asian and other. Additionally, a rising number of baccalaureate graduates have been first-generation college students. This university has seen enrollment

growth of approximately 10 percent every academic semester and recently welcomed its largest freshman class ever. The growth in admission numbers has provided social strides towards students attending the highest quality programs built on solid academic foundations.

Over the years, TAMIU has increased success for the development in the community, educational achievement, and promising academic endeavors. I am happy to have this opportunity to congratulate Texas A&M International University on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, and I wish all staff and students many more years of success.

IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor and supporter of H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act. The apparent pursuit of nuclear weapons capability by the Government of Iran cannot be met with silence. Iran's history of concealing its nuclear facilities and programs has rightfully alarmed the international community about Iranian Government's ambitions. The revelation last month of a previously undisclosed uranium enrichment facility under construction near Qom adds to a growing list of deeply troubling actions by the Iranian regime. President Obama stated clearly that this new facility does not appear to be configured for the production of fuel for nuclear power reactors. Iran has a responsibility to fully comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency inspections and to definitively clarify the status and nature of the Qom site.

Unfortunately, the mistrust and skepticism surrounding the Iranian nuclear issue are a result of more than Iran's covert efforts. The provocative and threatening rhetoric that we have come to expect from the President of Iran is cause for great concern both for our allies, such as Israel, and for our own interests in the region. In addition, we have witnessed the Iranian regime carry out brutal acts of violence against Iranian citizens as they gathered peacefully to express their political beliefs. The United States cannot ignore this violation of basic human rights, but neither can we ignore the stark reminder about the potential consequences of a nuclear weapon in the hands of a government that expresses such disregard for the lives and liberties of its own citizens.

Taken together, the Iranian Government's actions are inconsistent with those of a nation seeking peaceful nuclear energy technology. It is incumbent upon the Government of Iran to demonstrate unequivocally to the international community that it is not attempting to cultivate nuclear weapons.

Until the Iranian regime fulfills this responsibility, Iran will face the consequences of non-compliance with this internationally recognized obligation. The provisions of the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act should be part of those consequences. This bill would authorize state and local governments to divest their assets from, and prohibit investment in, any company